



## National Service in Alaska



### MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS IN ALASKA

More than 630 people of all ages and backgrounds are helping to meet local needs, strengthen communities, and increase civic engagement through national service in Alaska. Serving at more than 150 locations throughout the state, these citizens tutor and mentor children, support veterans and military families, provide health services, restore the environment, respond to disasters, increase economic opportunity, and recruit and manage volunteers.

This year, the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) will commit more than \$3,910,000 to support Alaska communities through national service initiatives. CNCS invests in cost-effective community solutions--working hand in hand with local partners to improve lives, expand economic opportunity, and engage citizens in solving problems in their communities. Serving in many of the state's most impoverished communities, CNCS provides vital support to schools, food banks, homeless shelters, community health clinics, youth centers, veterans service facilities, and other nonprofit and faith-based organizations at a time of growing demand for services. Through a unique public-private partnership, this federal investment will leverage an additional \$2,460,000 in other resources to strengthen community impact, build local support, and increase return on taxpayer dollars. Nationwide, CNCS, its grantees, and project sponsors generated more than \$1.25 billion in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources in FY 2015.

**AmeriCorps:** This year AmeriCorps will provide more than 150 individuals the opportunity to provide intensive, results-driven service to meet education, environmental, health, economic, and other pressing needs in communities across Alaska. Most AmeriCorps grant funding goes to the Serve Alaska, which in turn awards grants to nonprofit groups to respond to local needs. Most of the remainder of the grant funding is distributed by CNCS directly to multi-state and national organizations through a competitive grants process. Other individuals serve through AmeriCorps VISTA, whose members help bring individuals and communities out of poverty by serving full-time to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, and increase housing opportunities, and AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps), a 10-month, full time residential program for men and women between the ages of 18 and 24. In exchange for their service, AmeriCorps members earn an education award that can be used to pay for college or to pay back qualified student loans. Since 1994, more than 4,000 Alaska residents have served more than 5.3 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$10,930,000.

**Senior Corps:** More than 480 seniors in Alaska contribute their time and talents in one of three Senior Corps programs. Foster Grandparents serve one-on-one as tutors and mentors to more than 130 young people who have special needs. Senior Companions help homebound seniors and other adults maintain independence in their own homes. RSVP volunteers conduct safety patrols, renovate homes, protect the environment, tutor and mentor youth, respond to natural disasters, and provide other services through more than 8 groups across Alaska.

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a federal agency that improves lives, strengthens communities, and fosters civic engagement through service and volunteering. CNCS annually engages more than five million Americans in service to meet local needs through Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and national days of service; improves communities through the Social Innovation Fund, and leads President Obama's national call to service initiative, United We Serve. To learn more visit [NationalService.gov](http://NationalService.gov) or [Serve.gov](http://Serve.gov) or call 202-606-5000 or TTY 1-800-833-3722.

# Alaska At a Glance



<b>AmeriCorps</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants <sup>1</sup>	Education Scholarships <sup>2</sup>	Program Funding
AmeriCorps National	3	25	44	\$352,835	\$198,655 <sup>3</sup>
AmeriCorps State Competitive	1	18	25	\$144,375	\$348,249
AmeriCorps State Formula	3	18	56	\$317,625	\$827,481
AmeriCorps VISTA	10	47	28	\$160,710	\$457,268
<b>AMERICORPS TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>\$975,545</b>	<b>\$1,831,653</b>
<b>Senior Corps</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
Foster Grandparent Program	1	40	134	-	\$515,645
RSVP	1	8	290	-	\$78,503
Senior Companion Program	1	-	56	-	\$265,644
<b>SENIOR CORPS TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$859,792</b>
<b>Social Innovation Fund</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
Nonprofit Subgrantees	2	-	-	-	-
<b>SOCIAL INNOVATION FUND TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Other Funding</b>	Projects	Service Locations	Participants	Education Scholarships	Program Funding
State Commission Operations Support	1	-	-	-	\$250,000
<b>OTHER FUNDING TOTAL (Current Projects Only)</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$250,000</b>
<b>PROGRAM TOTALS</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>156 <sup>4</sup></b>	<b>633</b>	<b>\$975,545</b>	<b>\$2,941,445</b>
<b>TOTAL CNCS FUNDING (Including Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards)</b>					<b>\$3,916,989</b>
<b>TOTAL LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT (Non-CNCS Resources)</b>					<b>\$2,467,945 <sup>5</sup></b>
<b>TOTAL CNCS FUNDING + TOTAL LOCAL PROGRAM SUPPORT</b>					<b>\$6,384,935</b>

Notes: The data shown represents a snapshot in time. CNCS project sites, participants, and funding change throughout the year, so the data may not reflect current conditions.

- <sup>1</sup> This figure represents the number of awarded positions available to be filled in the 2015 - 2016 program year. For AmeriCorps VISTA, this represents the actual number of VISTA members in active service.
- <sup>2</sup> This figure represents the maximum potential value of Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards that can be earned by AmeriCorps members serving in Alaska. The award can be used in any state to pay for college, graduate school, vocational training, or to pay back student loans. The education award total is included in total CNCS funding.
- <sup>3</sup> AmeriCorps National figures may include national programs headquartered in the state and/or operating sites of national programs that are headquartered in other states. Funding reflects the estimated proportionate share of the national grant associated with operating sites in this report. Some national organizations do not report operating site data, or it was not available at time of publishing, so figures may not reflect current conditions.
- <sup>4</sup> The service location total may contain multiple counts of unique locations where multiple CNCS programs are operating.
- <sup>5</sup> As part of its public-private partnership approach, CNCS requires grantees to leverage additional resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on the federal investment. This figure reflects non-CNCS cash and in-kind resources that CNCS grantees and project sponsors have committed to raise or other revenue used to support their programming activities across the state. Last year, CNCS, its grantees, and project sponsors generated more than \$1.25 billion in outside resources from businesses, foundations, public agencies, and other sources.

Since 1994, more than 4,000 Alaska residents have served more than 5.3 million hours and have qualified for Segal AmeriCorps Education Awards totaling more than \$10,930,000.

## State Commission

Serve Alaska currently manages a portfolio of three AmeriCorps State programs with 43 AmeriCorps members serving in both urban and remote rural villages across Alaska addressing critical needs in the areas of education, healthy futures, economic opportunity, and capacity building. In the 2014-2015 program year, the remote rural Native Survivors program started with just two youth and is now up to 53. The group's focus is stopping suicide amongst the village residents. Another program locally promotes environmental education by implementing energy conservation and encouraging recycling and waste reduction by fostering community involvement in area-wide cleanup efforts. Additional Serve Alaska programs included a first time Volunteer Summit attended by 50 nonprofits. The attendees were introduced to the First Lady Donna Walker and reviewed the landscape of nonprofits in Alaska. Serve Alaska will follow up with additional meetings in 2016. Alaska moved to #8 in the Volunteering and Civic Life in America rankings. Another first for Serve Alaska was the training of 27 AmeriCorps members in a FEMA class on how to set up and manage a Volunteer Reception Center in case of disasters, part of Serve Alaska's goal to build a cadre of trained AmeriCorps members ready to respond to disasters.

## AmeriCorps State

The Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network (RAVEN) Youth Development AmeriCorps program serves rural Alaskan communities by promoting environmental education, implementing energy conservation, encouraging recycling and waste reduction, and fostering community involvement in area-wide clean-up efforts. RAVEN AmeriCorps members improve environmental conditions across rural Alaska. Locally-recruited RAVEN AmeriCorps members partner with tribal environmental programs, faith-based organizations, community schools, and tribal and city councils. Members recruit volunteers in their communities, lead community-wide clean-ups; start and improve recycling and waste reduction programs; design and implement solid waste management plans, provide community education on household hazardous wastes; collect used oil for re-use; remove lead/acid batteries, abandoned vehicles and other hazardous wastes from their villages; and improve community waste disposal and removal systems. Members also host healthy activities for youth. They organize youth events, provide volunteer opportunities for youth, and serve as role models as they address local environmental issues. The RAVEN AmeriCorps program is generously funded by the Alaska State Community Service Commission, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the State of Alaska's Department of Health and Human Services. In 2015, 20 RAVEN AmeriCorps members diverted 42,000 pounds of materials either through recycling or backhaul from rural dumpsites; managed 17 grants through a partnership with the Yukon Kuskokwim Coastal Association to address solid waste management priorities in several Yukon Kuskokwim regional communities, and improved 2,305 acres in rural communities.

## AmeriCorps National

Sarah, a Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest AmeriCorps member, served with the Sitka Conservation Society for the past year. Together with community partners, she developed and coordinated programs and activities to teach youth and young adults about their surrounding ecosystem and connect them to it. While she served in Sitka, Sarah taught about growing local food and how to process, preserve, and cook it – important skills for living in harmony with the land and building community. One of her capacity-building projects included the creation of a binder with instructions on how to prepare a garden bed and use local food resources. Her project expanded upon the 4-H Wild Edibles Foods program; she added new recipes and included gardening tips and how to prepare a garden for winter. The guide is specific to Sitka's local habitat and food supply. Besides directions for processing, preserving, and cooking local foods, this AmeriCorps member included information about the place-based importance of the resources. The recipes aim to appeal to Sitka's youth and can be easily taught to 4-H members.

## AmeriCorps VISTA

In 1999, the public library shut its doors in Kake, a small town on Kupreanof Island. Though it still ostensibly served as the high school's library, the lack of a librarian reduced it to little more than a dusty book warehouse. After sixteen years of watching the library fall further into disarray, the community of Kake partnered with the Alaska State Library's "Libraries Build Communities" AmeriCorps VISTA project. In February, VISTA Lindsey Bennet arrived in Kake and began coordination of the renovation of the abandoned library. She assisted with recruiting volunteers and facilitation of Library Board meetings, drafted library policies, and wrote a Public Library Assistance grant. On June 8, 2015, the renovated library opened to the public for the first time since its closure sixteen years ago. Community members now come to read, study, and use the Internet for free, which is especially important in a place where staying connected to the rest of the world can be a challenge. With the library now open, Lindsey has shifted her focus to creating community programs at the library. She's kicked off the year with a summer reading program, an early literacy reading group, and resume writing workshops.

Christy McDonald is the first AmeriCorps VISTA to serve with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, the largest tribal health organization in the country. The goal of her program is to improve rural resident respiratory health by improving indoor air quality. Rural Alaska is in the midst of a well-documented housing crisis. Overcrowding and deteriorating housing stock has led to pneumonia, and hospitalization rates for rural infants have climbed seven times higher than the national average. Christy is taking action to fight poverty by improving children's health outcomes through education. After visiting a handful of rural communities this summer, Christy collaborated with the National Tribal Water Center to create a children's book and accompanying coloring book that teaches prevention techniques and encourages rural kids to wash their hands, reducing disease. Christy also organized an educational video, shot in the Yup'ik language, to educate residents on proper ventilation to improve indoor air quality. These new resources are being distributed and shared widely to improve health outcomes for children in rural villages.

## AmeriCorps NCCC

An AmeriCorps NCCC team partnered with the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE) to complete a variety of environmental restoration projects with numerous partners, including the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Copper River Watershed project. WISE's mission is to provide science and environmental education for all ages, resources for learning, and support for scientific research. They have been in operation for 12 years. They provide a variety of programs year round, including school-based outdoor learning days, summer camps and hikes, intensive programs for teenagers, science lecture series, hiring of research interns, and planning family recreational and educational days. While in Alaska, the AmeriCorps NCCC team removed more than 13,500 pounds of exotic vegetation, cleared more than 70 feet of streambeds, planted more than 1,800 native plants, and constructed two miles of new hiking trails. The team provided much-needed support to help protect and restore the environment in the Valdez-Cordova area.

## Senior Corps Foster Grandparent Program

Rural Community Action Program's Svyion Elder Mentor/Foster Grandparent Program places volunteers in communities large and small. In Anchorage, Manuel has been an Elder Mentor at the McLaughlin Youth Detention Center for more than 20 years. He mentors young men, teaches them how to play chess, and how much life and chess have in common. They learn that it's better to think before acting, and that there are consequences – both good and bad – of each action. According to his supervisor, Manuel's companionship has a powerful impact on the youth. He said "I know, when they leave here, they have learned some important lessons that will help them make better decisions." About 300 miles away, in New Stuyahok, ten Elder Mentors brings wisdom, culture, and life skills into the classroom. The Elders have helped their school raise the graduation rate by 21 percent and reduced the dropout rate from 8.2 to 1.6 percent. When the New Stuyahok principal recently transferred to Tuluksak, one of the state's poorest performing schools, one of her first acts was to request Foster Grandparents. Fourteen Elder Mentors have already signed up.

## Senior Corps RSVP

As the RSVP sponsor for the Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna service area, the Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association RSVP program is providing support to 290 RSVP volunteers serving at more than 20 volunteer stations. Primary volunteer activities are focused on providing intergenerational opportunities for youth including culture camps and mentoring, assisting Elders in accessing health care and independent living services, serving veterans, and providing disaster preparedness and response support to local non-profits. The RSVP program promotes the ethic of service while utilizing the acquired skills of the Elder volunteers. The volunteers benefit from feeling connected while serving others and addressing community needs.

## Senior Corps Senior Companion Program

In September 2015, the Kenaitze Indian tribe was awarded a Senior Companion Program grant to support 40 Tribal Elders with an estimated 45 Senior Companions in partnership with the Kenai and Soldotna Senior Centers. The Senior Companion Program funding enables the tribe to expand support to homebound elders in the community who currently receive limited services and connection with the community. The Senior Companions assist their clients to age in place while participating in traditional activities such as subsistence dip net fishing, berry picking, and community gatherings. The Senior Companions are focusing on community-wide connectivity and re-engaging Elders within the larger framework of Dena'ina cultural traditions.

## Social Innovation Fund

The John A. Hartford Foundation Social Innovation Fund programs, including Mat-Su Health Services and Kodiak Area Native Association, are working towards improving the mental health of individuals living in rural communities and have served nearly 400 residents as of September 2015.

# AmeriCorps in Alaska



AMERICORPS TOTALS	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRAMS/PROJECTS
CURRENT (as of February 22, 2016)	153	17
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	158	8

Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Anchorage	Alaska (Completed) Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest	25	AmeriCorps National
Anchorage	Alaska (Current) Jesuit Volunteer Corps Northwest	22	AmeriCorps National
Anchorage	Anchorage Public Library Teen & Workforce Dev. Programs (Current) Municipality of Anchorage	1	AmeriCorps VISTA
Anchorage	Assets Building & Job Training (Completed) Catholic Social Services	-	AmeriCorps VISTA
Anchorage	BIRCH Fixed Award (Completed) Rural Alaska Community Action Program	15	AmeriCorps State Competitive
Anchorage	Cook Inlet Housing Authority Vista project (Current) Cook Inlet Housing Authority	1	AmeriCorps VISTA
Anchorage	Operation Homefront-AK (Completed) American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters	-	AmeriCorps National
Anchorage	Rural Alaska Community Action Program (Current) Rural Alaska Community Action Program	4	AmeriCorps VISTA
Anchorage	Rural Alaska Village Environmental Network (Completed) Rural Alaska Community Action Program	20	AmeriCorps State Competitive
Anchorage	SCA Alaska (Current) Student Conservation Association, Inc.	22	AmeriCorps National
Anchorage	SCA AmeriCorps National Direct Alaska (Current) Student Conservation Association, Inc.	-	AmeriCorps National
Anchorage	Sustainability Assistant (Current) First Alaskans Institute	1	AmeriCorps VISTA
Anchorage	Univ of Alaska - Center for Economic Development (Current) University of Alaska - Anchorage	5	AmeriCorps VISTA
Anchorage	Youth Success AmeriCorps Program (Current) Rural Alaska Community Action Program	25	AmeriCorps State Competitive
Fairbanks	University of Alaska Fairbanks (Current) University of Alaska Fairbanks	6	AmeriCorps VISTA
Juneau	Alaska State Library: Libraries Build Communities Project (Current) Alaska State Library	2	AmeriCorps VISTA
Juneau	Domestic Violence Prevention (Current) Alaska Network on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault	3	AmeriCorps VISTA
Juneau	JEDC STAR AmeriCorps Program (Current) Juneau Economic Development Council	18	AmeriCorps State Formula
Juneau	SAGA Connections (Completed) SouthEast Alaska Guidance Association (SAGA)	24	AmeriCorps State Formula
Juneau	SAGA Service Corps (Completed) SouthEast Alaska Guidance Association (SAGA)	56	AmeriCorps State Formula
Palmer	Alaska Food Policy Council (Current) DNR, Division of Agriculture	1	AmeriCorps VISTA
Sitka	Sheldon Jackson Campus Revitalization (Current) Sitka Sound Science Center, Inc.	4	AmeriCorps VISTA
Sitka	Sitka AmeriCorps (Completed) Sitka School District/Community School	18	AmeriCorps State Formula
Sitka	Sitka AmeriCorps (Current) Sitka School District/Community School	20	AmeriCorps State Formula
Sitka	Sitka Connections AmeriCorps (Current) Sitka School District/Community School	18	AmeriCorps State Formula

Notes: If there are programs with identical names in separate entries, they are different grants to the same organization. If no members are shown, either the grant is for planning or technical assistance, or enrollment data was not available at the time of printing.

# AmeriCorps in Alaska



AMERICORPS TOTALS	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRAMS/PROJECTS
CURRENT (as of February 22, 2016)	153	17
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	158	8

Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
--------------	--	---------------------------	--------------

The city column refers to the location of the sponsor organization. AmeriCorps members may be serving in other locations than the city listed.

# Senior Corps in Alaska



SENIOR CORPS TOTALS	PARTICIPANTS	PROGRAMS
CURRENT (as of February 22, 2016)	480	3
COMPLETED (within last 12 months)	280	1

Primary City	Program Name Sponsor Organization	Number of Participants	Program Type
Anchorage	Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association Inc. (Current) Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association Inc.	290	RSVP
Anchorage	Rural Alaska Community Action Program II (Current) Rural Alaska Community Action Program	134	Foster Grandparent Program
Anchorage	Southcentral Alaska RSVP (Completed) Volunteers of America of Alaska	280	RSVP
Kenai	Kenaitze Indian Tribe (Current) Kenaitze Indian Tribe	56	Senior Companion Program

Note: The city column refers to the location of sponsor organization. Volunteers may be serving in other locations than the city listed.



## Nonprofit Subgrantees in Alaska

Program HQ Location	Nonprofit Subgrantee Name	Description
	<i>Intermediary</i>	
Kodiak, AK	Kodiak Area Native Association The John Hartford Foundation	The John A. Hartford Foundation plans to disseminate the IMPACT model of depression treatment through community health clinics as subgrantees to serve low-income, rural communities in Wyoming, Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho. The IMPACT model is a collaborative care approach in which a primary care provider (PCP) and care manager team, along with a psychiatric consultant, provide treatment for depression. The care managers and PCPs retain primary responsibility for treatment and receive advice from the psychiatric consultant when patients are not improving. The key anticipated outcomes for the SIF IMPACT evaluation include the following: 1) Increased access to effective depression treatment for low-income patients in rural areas; 2) Decreased depression and improved social and occupational functioning among these patients; and 3) Improved economic well-being of individuals and families served including: a) Reduction of costs related to health care expenditures; b) Improvements in employment and related income; and c) Reduction in care-related costs for depression that are borne by family members.
Wasilla, AK	Mat-Su Health Services The John Hartford Foundation	The John A. Hartford Foundation plans to disseminate the IMPACT model of depression treatment through community health clinics as subgrantees to serve low-income, rural communities in Wyoming, Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho. The IMPACT model is a collaborative care approach in which a primary care provider (PCP) and care manager team, along with a psychiatric consultant, provide treatment for depression. The care managers and PCPs retain primary responsibility for treatment and receive advice from the psychiatric consultant when patients are not improving. The key anticipated outcomes for the SIF IMPACT evaluation include the following: 1) Increased access to effective depression treatment for low-income patients in rural areas; 2) Decreased depression and improved social and occupational functioning among these patients; and 3) Improved economic well-being of individuals and families served including: a) Reduction of costs related to health care expenditures; b) Improvements in employment and related income; and c) Reduction in care-related costs for depression that are borne by family members.

# Other Programs in Alaska



Primary City	Program/Project Name Sponsor Organization	Program Type
Anchorage	Administrative Grant (Current) Serve Alaska	State Commission Operations Support